THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The use of Endosulfan is not banned in India and therefore, it is freely available.

(c) and (d) Since there is no ban on use of Endosulfan, therefore, it is freely marketed in India under different brand names.

(e) Reviewing the use of pesticides is a continuous process. The Government had constituted an Export Committee in 1989 to review the use of 14 pesticides including Endosulfan. After review it was decided to continue its use.

Sealing of Assam Border

590. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seal the international border adjoining Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made so far in erection of the barbed wire fencing on the border of Assam facing Bangladesh; and

(e) the time by which the barbed wire fencing is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) A project to construct border roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up with a view to preventing infiltration of foreign nationals and to curb trans-border crimes. This includes construction of 192 kms. of roads and 158 kms. of fence in the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam.

2. 116.59 kms. of border roads and 125.54 kms. of fence has been constructed upto 31.12.96. The work is likely to be completed by the end of 1998.

Depletion of Mandarin Oranges

591. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Mandarin Oranges in Sikkim and Darjiling hills are under depletion owing to a disease;

(b) whether the ICAR Unit located in Sikkim has done any research on this disease;

(c) whether the Government have received any request for rejuvenation of depleted orange orchards of Sikkim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has suggested a package of practices for rejuvenating declined mandar in orchards to minimise the incidence.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of India is providing assistance for rejuvenation of old orchards which includes citrus under the scheme on integrated development of temperate, tropical and arid zone fruits. So far, Rs. 44.17 lakh has been released during VIIIth Plan to Sikkim under the Scheme.

Floriculture Centre in Andhra Pradesh

592. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction a model floriculture centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;

(c) the number of sanctions issued for foreign collaboration for floriculture during 1996-97; and

(d) the time by which model floriculture centre is likely to be sanctioned in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a model floriculture centre for Andhra Pradesh in March,1996 and also released Rs. 40 lakhs out of a total cost of Rs. 52.50 lakhs for the centre. Location of the centre in the state is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) Eighteen (18) sanctions for foreign collaborations for floriculture have been issued during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 15th February 1997.

Illegal Funds from Foreign Countries

593. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of specific cases where flow of illegal funds from the foreign countries to certain organisation has taken place during the last three years;

(b) if so, the action taken against the recipients; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) There have been instances where organisation, which are required to obtain registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 before accepting any foreign contribution, have obtained such contribution without such registration/prior permission. Appropriate action under the law is taken against such organisations.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all Banks in the country to ensure that foreign contribution is not credited to the account of any organisation unless it has obtained registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

Artificial Pearls

594. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations for production of artificial pearls in India;

(b) the quantity of artificial pearls produced in the country during the last three years;

(c) the quantity of atrificial pearls imported during the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to promote production of the artificial pearls ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The locations for experimental production of artificial pearls in India are :

Gujarat	– Sikka and Okha,
Kerala	– Calicut, Kochi and Vizhinjam,
Tamil Nadu	– Tuticorin, Mandapam Camp and Chennai,
Andhra Pradesh	– Kakinada, Visakhapatnam,
Lakshadweep Group of Islands, Andaman and Nicobar Islands,	
Orissa	Kausalyagang.

(b) The quantity of artificial pearls produced experimentally with success during the last three years is approximately 5 kg.

(c) According to information provided by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, the artificial pearls worth Rs. 6925.39 lakhs were imported during the period 1992-93 to 1994-95.

(d) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) have transferred the technology and knowhow for pearl culture through demonstration, training, education and extension, education programmes to the State Departments of Fisheries, Public Sector Undertaking and Private entrepreneurs.

Expansion of Aquaculture

595. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for the supply of quality seed, food, other inputs as erection of adequate infrastructure for storage, transporation, marketing and credit etc. for the expansion of aquaculture in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : The Government provide first year inputs such as seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc. to the beneficiaries for taking up freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). These agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to farmers for fish/prawn farming. The Central Government also provides assistance to State Governments for setting up of infrastructural facilities such as, cold storages, ice plants, transportation, etc. for fish marketing.

Refugees from Bangladesh

596. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refugees from Bangladesh living in different parts of the country for three years together;

(b) the agreement reached with Bangladesh following the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister/Foreign Minister to New Delhi with regard to deportation of Chakma and other refugees from Bangladesh; and